

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Shaping the dough - the pupils of the Cheder made hamantaschen on the Sunday before Purim using dough provided by their parents

Young Adult Learning Series

We will be exploring the role of the *Outsider in Judaism* with Rabbi Chava Koster.

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a member of Bromley Reform Synagogue and we encourage everyone to get involved no matter what your Jewish education background.

We will be meeting at The Ivy House Community Pub in Nunhead SE15 on **Wednesdays, 1 May and 26 June** at 7:30 pm.

Further details from **Lilinaz Evans**, through the synagogue, 020 8460m5460

Yom Hashoah Community Commemoration Morning Sunday, 5 May

We hope all our Synagogue community will join us to remember this important day in our history

Parents especially are requested to join their children on this special Sunday morning.

**11 a.m. Short Memorial Service
followed by a talk from**

Rosje Steenhart Drukker
on her life as a "Hidden Child" in Amsterdam during the Second World War.

On a dark September evening in 1942, Fietje Drukker dresses her little daughter in a double set of clothes, puts her in a pram and pushes her in the direction of Koninginneweg in Amsterdam. As agreed with the underground, she places her daughter in the upstairs porch of number 9, rings the doorbell and walks home with the empty pram through the quiet streets, grieving for her lost child. Rosje lands in the state orphanage, where she is given the name Irma van Schinkel. The events that follow shape the story of a lost and entangled youth and of unresolved fears and sorrows.

Join us to hear Rosje's story, now preserved in a book by Mink van Rijdsdijk

In This Month's Highlight

View from the New Chair	2
Asking Questions.....	2
Video Operator wanted.....	2
Cheder News	3
Youth Club	3
Bromley Beit Midrash	3
Social Centre News.....	3
Hesped for Zena Goodman z/l	4-5
A Life Unfinished	5
Lehrhaus at LBC	5
Social and Personal	6
SE10 and Beyond.....	6
Can you help?	6
WJR London-Berlin Cycle Ride.....	6
Hesped for Marion Mason z/l	7
Explore Israel	7
Pesach Message from the President of the Board of Deputies	8
Services	8
Shabbat Study Sessions.....	8
Dates for Your Diary	9
Mental Health Conference at WLS..	10
Advertisements	10



*Chag sameach
Pesach to all our
readers*

A bit about myself - View from the New Chair

By the time you read this in April the AGM on 12 March will have taken place with a new Chair elected – me! Within a few days last month two significant events happened to me. I ran a half marathon and then two days later I was elected Chair. I find a similarity in these two events. Being honoured with the responsibility of being your Chair is like running a distance. It is not a sprint but a dedication to putting the work in for the long term and realising a sense of worth in the journey getting there. I am very lucky to have been handed the baton by **John Posner**, who has tirelessly worked as Chair for the last three years, and who continues to be a great support. **Kieron Hyams** stays on as our Vice-Chair, and his unassuming commitment and tenacity in championing our community is invaluable. A full report from the AGM is available to read, but on the Board we bid a farewell and thank you to **Shane Lask, Ann Fried and Ruth Rolle**, and a welcome to **Heidi Small**.

Some of you may be asking who is your new Chair? Well, let me tell you a bit about myself and why I am so privileged to be given this role. I found Bromley Shul when I was 15 years old after a search to find somewhere where I felt my heart was at home. I was brought up in the Orthodox Synagogue that used to be in Woolwich, and then went to cheder at Catford & Bromley Synagogue. However, as I grew older as a young woman I found myself searching for something more. I had grown up in a household with a Persian mum and an East End British father who went through the conversion process in the early 1960s before he married my mum. We were a mixed heritage and Jewish family before it became fashionable.

The first time I walked into a Friday night service in Bromley I was made to feel welcome and it was then I found my spiritual home. Since that time many years ago, I met and married my non-Jewish husband Bill. We went to the Sternberg Centre and to the “*I’m Jewish my partner isn’t*” workshop, we found a way to make it work for us. His Welsh family and my Persian Jewish family embraced each other. The rest as they say is history and along came

Lili, Esther, Lloyd and Ezra.

Each of the children has been welcomed into the community with their baby blessings, the three eldest have had their *b’nei mitzvah* and the youngest is still at Cheder. I cannot finish my story without mentioning and thanking the Social Centre and Caring Community, who are supporting my parents through my mum’s dementia. Through times of happiness and sadness, I feel that my Bromley shul family have been there. As Chair I hope to continue on from my predecessors and with our new **Rabbi Koster** into a bright future for Bromley Reform Synagogue.

I hope to increase engagement within our members, to work towards empowering the individual and our membership. To encourage ideas, not just from a committee or the Board, but also from the wider community so that we all feel ownership, that we matter and that we can make a change.

With the coming of April we will see a busy month ahead. If you have not done so already don’t forget to get your tickets for the Communal Seder on Saturday, 20 April from 6 pm. This has always been one of my favourite occasions and this year should prove to be even better with the beautiful singing voice of Rabbi Koster leading us, and Vicki’s rousing renditions of all of our favourite Pesach songs.

Let me finish by wishing you “*Chag Pesach sameach!*”

Michelle Brooks Evans
Chair

Report of the Board to the AGM

The Report of the Board to the AGM, which was delivered by John Posner at the meeting on 12 March, was too long to be reproduced in this *Highlight* and has therefore been uploaded to the synagogue website, where it can be read and downloaded if desired. Go to:

<https://www.bromleyshul.org.uk/?p=11303>



Asking Questions from the Rabbi’s desk

Socrates, the great Greek philosopher and mentor of Plato, was in the habit of asking disconcerting questions. To this day, persistent questioning in search of clarity is known as the Socratic method. For this habit, among other things, he was put on trial by the Athenians, accused of corrupting the young and sentenced to death.

Baruch ha shem nothing could be less like Judaism, in which teaching the young to question is an essential feature of who we are and a characteristic of the holiday of Pesach, so much so that the Haggadah story must be in response to a question asked by a child. If there is no child present adults must ask one another and, if one is eating alone, one must ask oneself. In Judaism to be without questions is a sign not of faith but of a lack of depth. Many of the customs of Seder night were introduced solely to provoke a child to ask why.

Education is not indoctrination. It is teaching a child to be curious, to wonder, reflect, enquire. The child who asks becomes a partner in the learning process. He or she is no longer a passive recipient but an active participant. To ask is to grow. To ask is to believe that somewhere there is an answer. So with Purim behind us and the groggers put away, the time for questions is approaching. I am looking forward to yours.

Rabbi Chava Koster

Can you help?

Are you a dab hand with a video camera?

The shul would like to record the talk to be

given by Roosje Drukker as part of our Yom Hashoah commemoration on Sunday, 5 May (see the front page of *Highlight*) for the benefit of future generations.

If you feel you are the person to do this, please contact our Chair, **Michelle Brooks Evans**, on 020 8293 4999 or at michellebrooksevens@gmail.com at an early date.



Cheder News

I can hear your questions from here: What happened in March at Cheder? What's the plan for April? For all the answers, please have a look below!



- 1) We held Purim Celebration Day on Sunday, 24 March. The children began the day with a Cheder Party in their classrooms, munching the hamantaschen they had baked the week before. We then had a Megillah reading where chaos reigned in the best possible way. Special thanks to all the parents who sent in hamantaschen dough for the children to bake, **Caroline Jones** for painting our littlest faces and **Rabbi Koster** for her hilarious take on the Purim story. And well done to everyone for their amazing costumes!
- 2) Passover is coming, so please keep an eye out for **Lili Evans'** new Youth Club column, which will tell you all about the Youth Club Chametz Hunt on Tuesday, 16 April. The kids can keep (and eat) all the Chametz (bread) they find, so get in touch with her to see if your kids can join in: lili.evans@live.co.uk.
- 3) This year Kittah Chet has decided to raise money for Cancer Research UK and the Folly Wildlife Rescue. Please keep sending in those spare pennies so that we can teach our children the importance giving Tzedakah, (charity) as it says in the Talmud: "Tzedakah is equal to all the other commandments combined".
- 4) **Don't forget that the last day of Cheder this term will be on Sunday, 7 April.** We'll then be off for the Passover Holidays until **Sunday, 28 April when we start our Summer or Kayitz term.** In between, many of us will be joining the synagogue for the **Communal Seder** on 20 April at 6 pm. I hope to see you there.

That's all for now. Until next month,
L'Shalom,
Vicki, Head Teacher



Admiring the hamantaschen - fruit of many Cheder pupils' labours

Youth Club Event

Chametz Hunt! The Youth Club will be having pizza, hunting down chametz before Passover and watching the Rugrats Passover Movie.

Date: Tuesday, 16 April

Time: 5:30 pm

Place: at the Synagogue.

Further details from **Lilinaz Evans**, via the synagogue, 020 8460 5460

Bromley Beit Midrash Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes

**Rabbi Chava Koster is to give
a series of classes**

Introduction to Judaism

Are you looking to improve or revise your knowledge of basic Judaism? Maybe you are a parent needing to keep up with your child in Cheder. Perhaps you are looking at conversion to Judaism. These classes are for you.

They will be held on Cheder mornings when no other event is being held, as follows:

**Sundays, 28 April, 19 May,
16 and 23 June,**
Starting at 10 a.m.

Further information from
Rabbi Koster at
rabbi@bromleyshul.org.uk
or **Barbara Kurtz** at
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

A small charge is usually made to non-members. Please contact the synagogue administrator at janet@bromleyshul.org.uk

Social Centre News

At our meeting on 27 February we had our usual pleasant time, including games, exercise and a good lunch. We also had a speaker: **Robin Jacobs**, a volunteer from Magen David Adom UK.

This organisation is entirely voluntary except for the paid administrative staff. Robin explained the part they play in supporting the Israeli Magen David Adom, which started in 1930, first in Tel Aviv, then in Jerusalem and Haifa, and now functions worldwide. It is usually the first on the scene of a medical emergency or disaster and aims to arrive within eight minutes.

In 2006 it was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross as the national aid society of Israel and has the responsibility for Israel's first aid and pre-hospital emergency training, providing ambulances, collection of blood, co-operation with the Palestinian Red Crescent, sharing expertise internationally on dealing with mass casualties and organising social action projects.

MDA UK supports the above by raising funds. One example of their requirements is that in Israel it is compulsory to receive first aid training from the age of 14 and the annual cost of this is over £500,000. MDA's shopping list also includes disposable medical goods and equipment, the update of GPS installed in every ambulance, the ambulance stations, etc. etc. Its annual expenditure could be in excess of £3,500,000.

One of the organisation's other main functions is to collect blood and there is a whole department devoted to this. Robin's main function as a volunteer is to go into schools to talk about this organisation and explain how it works.

Despite the rough weather we were delighted to have so many with us on 13 March when we celebrated the 80th birthday of one our regular members.

The Photographic London quiz due to take place on 27 March has been postponed until 24 April, so please make a note to come.

The **April programme** is as follows and everyone is invited.

10 April - David & Tom will give another of their popular musical entertainments

24 April - A Photographic London quiz given by **Judi Sheffrin**

On **Wednesday 24 April** the **Hearing Aid Clinic** organised by Hi-Kent will also be in attendance.

Zena Goodman - February 27 1934 to February 14 (Valentine's Day) 2019.

A tale of adventure and life as it should be lived...

(edited from the hesped written by her children and delivered by Rabbi Koster on 21 February 2019)

Zena was born in Liverpool, the fourth of five children. Her life had three main locations: Liverpool, Montreal and Orpington, each very separate but all connected by family, love and community. She grew up in a traditional orthodox Jewish household, typical of its time; Shabbat was observed and life was family oriented, with many cousins living near and far. Her father Mayer, a cabinetmaker, was an authoritarian figure, a strict and traditional man with a short fuse. Her mother Sarah was warm and loving in contrast.

After war-time evacuation to Wales, Zena grew into a strong-minded teenager. Although a rebel in some ways, she was passionate about family, friends and community, values that stayed with her for life, no doubt hatched in the warm, busy, lively environment of her family - older sisters Stella and Pauline, who looked after her (except on the occasion when one of them, in a fit of pique, snipped off her pigtailed), and brothers Harold, who became a successful businessman, and Trevor, whose sharp sense of humour and zest for life led to lots of fun whenever they were together. She might have had elocution lessons to ensure that her Liverpool accent was lost - perhaps the poshest Liverpool lass you could ever meet - but was not happy at school despite clearly being very bright. So, having learned to drive at 16, Zena was quickly off to work at what is now John Lewis, where she rapidly rose to management roles.

In 1948, at the tender age of 14, Zena was introduced by a cousin to John and their path was set. She decided he was the one for her and he was caught in her light. It was the beginning of 70 years in which they were inseparable in all aspects of life. John was 16. He had been orphaned young and brought up by his sisters and aunts. They became engaged in 1951 and married in 1955 in Liverpool. He studied and she worked and they saved. Their dream was to leave England for North America and after a two-day "mini-moon" in Wales, they set sail, eventually arriving in Montreal with £500 and hopes of building a better life and having their own family. John finished his degree in Industrial Chemistry at night school and they both worked two or three jobs in parallel to make ends meet. Zena sold Encyclopaedia Britannica door to door among other things. By 1962 they had a house and three children, Simon, Shane and



Zena and John - together for 70 years

Andrew. John progressed well at work and he and Zena energetically pursued many interests. They became active in the theatre, on stage and behind the scenes, and even took a play sponsored by John's employers to the Montreal equivalent of the West End. Trips to the mountains, camping, skiing and skating abounded - Simon played Ice Hockey Little League and they made an ice rink in the back yard - relatives visited in summer and there was lots of snow, sun and laughter.

After 12 exciting years in Canada, having achieved so much from nothing, John was head-hunted by Unilever, so in 1968 they arrived in Orpington. Soon they were tempted to join Bromley & District Reform Synagogue by their future machatonim, Hilda and Ivor Lask, and became hugely involved in all aspects of synagogue life for the next 50 years. Zena's many roles included teaching, Ladies' Guild and founding BR5&6 social group. Her art skills were bought to bear in the creation of the shul's 25th anniversary commemorative plate and she was given the rare honour of being made a life Vice President of the synagogue. Living in an outpost of Judaism, the community and its members' welfare were at the centre of her life, and therefore that of all the family! Many shul pool parties were held in the back garden with 50+ members gathered

together for more sun and laughter.

Care, passion and honesty were evident in all of Zena's interactions; she was interested in everything and everyone. Local individuals and lofty issues facing the world, she cared about it all and was sharp as a tack till the end (her skills in completing the fiendish Sudoku were legendary). For her, life was for living. She took on so much, from studying O level English and A level Sociology, portrait drawing and painting to pursuing the interest in antiques from which she and John made a living when he retired from corporate life. They travelled far and wide, marvelling at the wonders of the world. Her last trip to Israel was very special as she got to see it with John and Andrew, Ingrid, Theo and Zara. Essentially a Zionist at heart, it gave her great joy to be there. But Zena's greatest passion remained her family. First, she fiercely supported and cajoled her children, encouraging them to explore and take many paths through different stages of their lives. Then came the even greater pleasure of close involvement in the early years and development of her grandchildren. Friday nights meant dinner at Zena and John's, and for Maia and Noami that meant sleepovers. They found themselves involved in all sorts of creative fun, including, writing, set-designing and acting out a play about WW2. Later, Zena took enormous pleasure in educating them in theatre and the arts. In later years, she was thrilled to hear their choir performances.

With them, as with her other grandchildren, Theo and Zara, every interaction was pure pleasure for Zena. From the start, she thrilled in their development, exam successes and relationships. She was unstinting and unswerving in championing everything they did. In recent years, as a silver surfer, she was able to stay close to their lives even if she could not see them as often as she longed to. If she heard of a success, moments later it was broadcast to friends and family far and wide. She set the tone and the bar for everyone, and it was a high one. "She reminded us," say her children, "of the importance of family, friends and community and how deep those connections are. She encouraged us to remember people and recognise them. She inspired us to strive to be better people."

continued on page 6

Hesped for Zena

continued from page 5

Life wasn't without challenges; Zena was like a lioness, feisty and proud, with an indefatigable spirit, driven to grab all that life had to offer, but she had been dealt a poor hand physically. She should have died 27 years ago, after a major heart attack, when she refused a triple bypass because she was concerned about possible negative effects on Shane, who was pregnant with Naomi, but relented in the end. Then, seven years ago, she fought cancer with only one objective - to be there for Theo's bar mitzvah. Of course, she won that battle too; she was like a cat with many lives. She refused under all circumstances to imagine ever being anything other than independent in her life and living arrangements with John. She had a life full of love, joy, pride in her family and friends. She was a lady to the end. The children conclude: "We were all her loyal followers, in many ways in her thrall. She will be missed by many, a woman of virtue in every way possible. She was unique and an outstanding human being in so many respects and we will always remember her as our Valentine."

Lehrhaus at LBC Live Online Courses:

Liat Aharonovich- Modern Hebrew: Beginners

8-week Online course,
Tuesdays 5.30 - 7.30 pm,
Dates: 7 May- 25 June 2019

Liat Aharonovich- Modern Hebrew: Intermediate –

8-week Online course,
Tuesdays 3.15 - 5.15 pm,
Dates: 07 May- 25 June 2019

Day Course at LBC:

Prof. Victor Jeleniewski Seidler: Buber's Ethics: Listening and Learning.

6-week course at Leo Baeck College,
Thursdays 7.30 – 9.00 pm
Dates: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May, 6 June
2019

Payment can be made online or by sending us a cheque made payable to Leo Baeck College (80 East End Road, London N3 2SY), or by phone (020 8349 5600) using a credit/debit card.

If you have any questions, please contact **Jarek**: Lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk, 020 8349 5600.

A Life Unfinished – from our Roving Reporter

One and a half million Jewish children were murdered, but only Anne Frank's face is recognized by readers throughout the world. *The Diary of a Young Girl* has been published in 60 languages and 30 million copies have been sold.

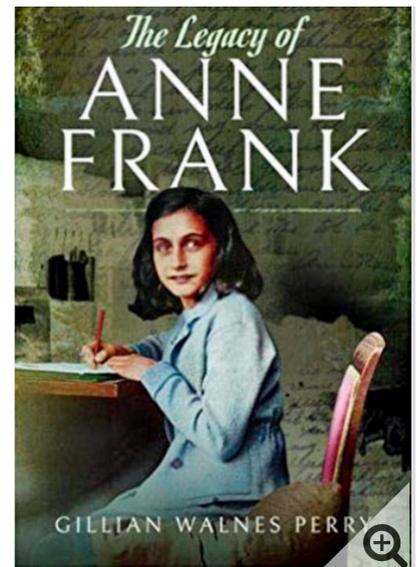
On a damp Sunday afternoon, a 60-strong audience listened to an extraordinary woman who took on an extraordinary task. **Gillian Walnes Perry** MBE started the Anne Frank Trust in 1990, with the support of Otto Frank, the only survivor of the eight people who hid in *het achterhuis* (the secret annexe) and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. When Ms. Walnes Perry retired from the Trust in 2006, the exhibitions about Anne Frank's life and times and enduring relevance had been seen throughout the UK and across the world.

Teenagers, particularly, can identify with Anne Frank as another teenager like them, who has dreams and aspirations, opinions and a voice filled with optimism. The Trust has worked with thousands of young people at home and abroad who are living in communities divided by fear and distrust of the 'other'.

Ms. Walnes Perry described the effect that the diary has had on people who have suffered discrimination, bigotry and injustice; **Nelson Mandela** read it during his 27-year imprisonment on Robben Island. It has inspired plays and films, including the Oscar-winning documentary *Anne Frank Remembered* (1995), directed by Jon Blair and the acclaimed 2009 BBC adaptation of the diary by **Deborah Moggach**.

Ms. Walnes Perry's book *The Legacy of Anne Frank* (2018) is very readable, with a precise sense of changing times in this country and elsewhere. Best of all, it is clearly written and direct.

It is difficult not to wonder what would have happened to Anne Frank if her life had not been stolen from her. And it is equally difficult not to wonder what about all the other diaries that were written during the Shoah. The diaries that will never be read



and diarists who will never be known, because nobody survived to remember them.

2019 is the 90th anniversary of Anne's birth. Anne will be remembered throughout the world.

She is 'our' Anne; her fate was shared by two-thirds of European Jews. And she 'belongs' to non-Jews too.

The Shoah was not a tragedy:

It is an atrocity and with an atrocity you don't have the balance that comes out of tragedy.

In tragedy, what you learn equals or somehow balances the price that you pay. In atrocity, you have an imbalance and consequently it is a heavy burden for civilization. It shatters your sense of belief in God, belief in the goodness of governments and the altruism of human beings. There is also a fear that this constitutes such an overwhelming negativity that we can't get the inner resources to create a positive future.

My sense is that the only way to go forward into the future with integrity is to confront, to grapple with this past.
Dr. Michael Berenbaum (Project Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (1988-93)

Many thanks to Gillian Walnes Perry MBE for a memorable afternoon. Thanks also to the Education Committee for making this possible.

Social and Personal

BIRTHS - A hearty mazal tov to **Joanna and Patrick Biggin** on the birth of their daughter, Constance Rose Leia (Connie) on 18 February. Joanna hopes that Connie will play an active role at synagogue through Cheder (in a few years, anyway!) and other activities.

A hearty mazal tov also to **Rabbi Jason and Jodi Holtz** on the birth of Ezra Richard on 20 March, a brother for Asher.

DEATHS - We are very sad to report the death of our member of many years, **Lilian Agar**, and extend sincere condolences to her daughter Danielle Payne.

We are also very sad to report the death in Cardiff of our member, **Marion Mason**, and extend sincere condolences to her children Malcolm, Alan, Tony, Graham and Anne and their families. An edited version of the hesped spoken at Marion's funeral is printed on page 8 of this *Highlight*.

May the memory of Lilian and Marion be for a blessing, *Zichrona l'vracha*.

GET WELL SOON - Pauline Jeffree writes: We are thinking of and wishing well to members of our community and others known to us who are unwell or undergoing treatment.

A TRIO OF FRANKELS

Nick, Megan and Jake Frankel will be performing with the Maidstone Amateur Operatic Society in the production of "*Oliver*" at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone. To book tickets (from £10) visit www.HazlittTheatre.com or ring 01622 758611.

THANKS TO THE CONGREGATION

John Goodman writes:

Dear Friends and Family,

I and my family want to thank you for your help and support. You have spoken, written, held our hands in the hours, days and weeks that have passed since Zena died. The support and kindness of the members of the shul have been overwhelming. They have comforted and strengthened us all. They have been a support and a staff for us all in this troubled time.

John, Simon, Shane and Andrew

"Kaddish" by Leon Wieseltier

Rabbi Koster mentioned this beautifully written book during a recent sermon, prompting me to revisit my copy. If anybody would like to borrow it, please let me know.

Judi Sheffrin (via 020 8460 5460)

Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers



Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers plan to meet at Pauline's home on: **Thursday, 16 May**, from 10:00 am to around midday. *All are welcome*. Come and join us and help support the sick little babies and their parents by providing all the knitted garments needed.

SE10 and Beyond

Michelle writes: Everyone is invited to join us at any of our events. Just contact me for more details:

Wednesday, 24 April from 7.30 pm in Greenwich the "*Great British Seder Off*". On this evening we will be sharing and celebrating everything to do with a Passover seder. So bring your favourite foods or memories and come and share them with us.

Tuesday, 7 May at 7 pm in Greenwich we have a special guest talking about politics and antisemitism in the Labour Party. **Damien Egan**, Mayor of Lewisham, will be speaking of his experiences and thoughts on the subject.

Michelle Brooks Evans
through the synagogue
020 8460 5460

PURIM - A thank you from the Senior Warden

Just a brief thank you to the wonderful team of Megillah readers, music makers, singers, hamantaschen bakers, photographers and providers of whisky that provided a fun evening!

Stephanie

Can you help?

Janvier Palmer writes:

Dear All,

I have taken on responsibility for the Shabbat kiddush rota. If you have any dates between now and the end of September when you would like to do kiddush, or dates that you already know you cannot make, please email me with them (don't worry if you don't know that far ahead!). I'd also like to know if there is anyone that you would like to be partnered with.

Thank you in advance for all your help!

Janvier

through the synagogue
020 8460 5460

World Jewish Relief Commemorative Berlin to London Kindertransport Bike Ride, 16 to 21 June

The 600-mile 6-day route emulates the journey taken by the children 80 years ago, setting off from Berlin and travelling to London via the Hook of Holland and the overnight ferry to Harwich.

Register at
www.worldjewishrelief.org/berlin2london

Further information from **Zara Kletz**, Community Engagement Officer, on 020 8736 1250.

Remembering Dr. Marion Mason, born 29 November 1922 died 24 February 2019, a tribute composed by all five of her children, and spoken by her son, Malcolm Mason, at her funeral on 1 March 2019

Our Mum, Dr Marion Mason, had a long life and we have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. Today, while mourning her loss, we also want to look back with pride on a long and happy life, well lived.

She was the first female consultant oro-maxillo-facial surgeon in the UK; She was always pedantic about using the full title as this meant so much to her. This was a massive achievement, for which she is a legend in her field. She was tough – you don't live to 96 unless you are! - having survived a massive brain operation for a benign tumour, during which she nearly died, and a burst bowel that left her for weeks in intensive care and nearly a year in hospital. However she recovered and returned to work as soon as she could after the brain operation.

Mum was born in 1922 in Suceava, Romania and came to England in the 1920s. She grew up in a loving family, idolising her older brother Michael and her mother, who was by all accounts an amazing pastry cook. Some families have heirlooms. Ours has cake recipes, including the legendary *Schmettentorte*. She wanted to study medicine and tried to get into Manchester University, but was told "we have no vacancies for a woman here, but why don't you go over the road to the dental school and see if they can offer you something?" That started her career, which culminated in her consultant appointment at St Helier Hospital in the 1960s. The entire surgical unit was in awe of her and always said 'yes' to whatever she wanted!

When our father died in 1993, we worried about how she would cope, but we really didn't need to. She had a unique talent to gather around her teams of volunteers who would see to her every need. How did she do it? If she had asked any of you in her uniquely charming way, one look into her big blue eyes and you would have done it too! Some time ago we got her a drinks coaster, which seemed made for her! It has a picture of a lady reclining, and an inscription which reads "so much to do, so few people to do it for me".

When she first came to Cardiff, nearly 8 years ago, one of the carers at



the Sunrise home said to her (by way of encouragement) "come on Dr Mason, everyone has to do things they don't want to do. You had five children, you had to do all that washing up". Her response? "I never did any washing up, that's why I had five children". We would all vouch for that, having been the original team of "volunteers"!

She loved her family, including the extended family, and was a wonderful mother-in-law. When Lee-Anne and Bruce's beloved father died in 2000, she immediately 'adopted' Bruce's children as additional grandchildren. Whenever she was asked how many grandchildren she had, she would always reply "14", which as the maths show, included Bruce's 4. She always sent birthday presents and gifts. She was amazingly generous – and would pamper others in the same way that she liked to pamper herself, which in her day meant weekly shopping and hairdressing trips to Harrods, to the consternation of our father who was trying to make ends meet!

She insisted on formality and dignity. Where every resident at Penylan House was known by their first name (by their choice), she alone insisted on being called "Dr Mason". Actually, when she was about to be anaesthetised for her major bowel op in 2006, the anaesthetist said to her "right, Marion, I am just going to put a little needle in your arm – is there anything you'd like

to say before you go to sleep". Reaching up to take the oxygen mask off, she uttered what could very well have turned out to be her last words: "it's *Doctor Mason...*"

She was a paradox – she was an amazing feminist who hated the idea of feminism. She was hugely capable, but loved being looked after. Her pride in her appearance was paramount; almost the last thing she did was to have her nails manicured, just a couple of days before she died.

She was extraordinary; she was stubborn; she was frustrating. She drove Seymour crazy. She drove her children crazy. There was the occasion when she took all five of us strawberry picking and after an hour and relentless insisting on many punnets and insisting that they were filled to maximum capacity, found at the checkout that she didn't have enough money! We had to leave most of them behind!! But she was adorable; she was mischievous; she was irresistible, we all loved her and we will miss her more than we can say. May her dear soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

Birthright Israel UK is once again offering a Birthright Israel Progressive trip with Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism.

**EXPLORE
ISRAEL!**

26th August - 5th September

Immerse yourself in ancient and modern history and find your place in the story of the Jewish people.

Encounter diverse perspectives and listen to important voices shaping the land today.

Be inspired by how Progressive Judaism is shaping Israel and return with lifelong friends and memories!

Make the most of your summer, as this gift from Birthright Israel UK means you can enjoy two weeks in Israel for free!



TAGLIT · תגלית
BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL

Spaces on this bus are limited so apply soon!

This trip is open to any Jewish 19-26 year olds, even those who have been on an organised tour of Israel (under the age of 18)

To find out more message Progressive Jewish Students on Facebook or visit:

<http://bit.ly/BirthrightIsraelUK2019>

liberal judaism

REFORM JUDAISM

We live in challenging times

Pesach Message from the President of the Board of Deputies

We live in challenging times. Over the past 12 months it seems our community has been on the receiving end of more abuse, intimidation and insults than at any time in living memory. And the most troubling thing about this antisemitism crisis is that it does not emanate from the fringes of our society but from the main party of opposition.

There is a parallel to be drawn with the story of Pesach. Back in Egypt, we were slaves and we demanded our freedom. When this was denied, our people fled in order to make new lives in their own land. Of course, our situation is very different. While there is antisemitism in the UK, we are free here and our community has and continues to live happily and contentedly and is certainly not fleeing anywhere. Antisemitism is a problem we are meeting head on. But we cannot achieve this on our own.

At tough times like these we need friends both inside and outside the community. We and our communal partners need to cooperate to find a way through this most worrying of times and we all need to display a united front against the antisemites. Recently, our lobbying played a part in Chris Williamson MP being suspended by the Labour Party after one Jew-baiting remark too many. And it was our efforts and those of our communal partners which resulted in Labour adopting the international definition of antisemitism after much prevarication last summer.

Although antisemitism is our number one challenge of the moment, we are not a single-issue organisation. We exist to ensure that the UK Jewish community can live freely and happily and continue to practise its traditions. The Board of Deputies played a prominent role in campaigning for the terrorist group Hezbollah to be banned in its entirety. I am happy to say that the Government listened and responded by ending the artificial distinction between Hezbollah's political and military wings.

We made a significant intervention into the Government's legislation on organ donation. As we moved from an opt-in system to an opt-out one, we acted to ensure that Jews of all denominations were protected, by influencing Government to

continued in next column

SERVICES

April 2019– Adar II/Nisan 5779

The future of Friday evening services is still under review. Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 5 April

Saturday 6 April

Hachodesh (Tazria - 1 Nisan)
Shabbat study after the service

Saturday 6 April

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Friday 12 April

Saturday 13 April

Hagadol (Metzora - 8 Nisan)

Friday 19 April

Saturday 20 April

Erev PESACH - First Seder Night
First Day of PESACH (15 Nisan)
(Second Seder Night)
Communal Seder, 6 pm in the Garden Room

Friday 26 April

Seventh Day of PESACH
Festival Service, 10.30 am in the Synagogue

Friday 26 April

Saturday 27 April

Acharei Mot (22 Nisan)

provide legally worded letters of guidance.

This is but a snapshot of the work we do, week in, week out, for our community over a vast range of issues. With your support we will carry on safeguarding our rights and speaking out on the issues that matter to us all.

This festival of freedom reminds us how lucky we are. We aim to ensure that our children and grandchildren continue to prosper.

Chag sameach to you all

Marie van der Zyl, President

Seder Sold Out

We are delighted to announce that the Communal Seder at the synagogue on Saturday, 20 April has proved so popular it is now SOLD OUT!

We know there will be disappointed people so Janet in the office has started a waiting list. Could we kindly remind those who have reserved tickets with her to pay by Friday, 5 April. After that date we will release the tickets and use the waiting list. Alternatively if you have tickets that you can no longer use please let Janet know asap. You can contact Janet on janet@bromleyshul.org.uk or 020 8460 5460.

Michelle Brooks Evans

Bromley Education Committee invites you to

Shabbat Study Sessions on 6 April and 18 May

There will be no sermon during the standard Shabbat Morning Service on the above dates. Instead we hope members will join us afterwards for a **bring-and-share lunch** followed by a study session

“Re-Reading the Rabbis of the Talmud”

led by Rabbi Chava Koster

French bread and drinks will be provided. Please bring vegetarian fare for your lunch.

Please contact Barbara Kurtz (via 020 8460 5460) to avoid duplication.

JC Headline of the month

“Bakers warn about Brexit impact on hamantaschen”

A photo caption states “Cutbacks: the pastry faces an uncertain future”



Dates for Your Diary

April

M	1	
T	2	
W	3	
Th	4	
F	5	
S	6	Rosh Chodesh Nisan - Hachodesh (Tazria) - Study session led by Rabbi Koster on the 'Rabbis of the Talmud' after Kiddush with bring-and-share lunch
S	7	Cheder Purim terms ends
M	8	
T	9	
W	10	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul - David and Tom's musical entertainment
Th	11	
F	12	Hagadol (Metzora)
S	13	
S	14	
M	15	
T	16	Youth Club Chametz Hunt , 5.30 pm at the Shul
W	17	
Th	18	
F	19	Erev Pesach (First Seder Night)
S	20	First Day of PESACH - Communal Seder 6 pm in the Garden Room
S	21	
M	22	
T	23	
W	24	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul - London Photo Quiz Hi-Kent Hearing Aid Clinic in parallel SE10 and Beyond - 'Great British Seder Off' - in Greenwich
Th	25	
F	26	Seventh Day of PESACH - Festival service at 10.30 am
S	27	Acharei Mot
S	28	Bromley Beit Midrash - Introduction to Judaism , 10 am in the Shul New Cheder term begins
M	29	
T	30	

May

W	1	Young Adult Learning , 7.30 pm at the Ivy House Community Pub, Nunhead SE15
Th	2	Yom Hashoah
F	3	
S	4	Atzmaut (Kedoshim) - Bar mitzvah of Leo Campling
S	5	Yom Hashoah - Commemoration Service with the Cheder at 11 am, followed by talk by a Holocaust survivor
M	6	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
T	7	SE10 and Beyond - Talk by Damien Egan on <i>Politics and Antisemitism</i> , 7 pm in Greenwich
W	8	Yom Hazikaron Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	9	Yom Ha'Atzmaut
F	10	
S	11	Emor
S	12	
M	13	
T	14	
W	15	
Th	16	
F	17	
S	18	Behar - Study session led by Rabbi Koster on the 'Rabbis of the Talmud' after Kiddush with bring-and-share lunch
S	19	Bromley Beit Midrash - Introduction to Judaism , 10 am in the Shul
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	23	Lag B'Omer Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference , 9.15 am - 4.30 pm, West London Synagogue
F	24	
S	25	Bechukotai
S	26	
M	27	
T	28	
W	29	
Th	30	
F	31	

REFORM JUDAISM

**Communities that
Care Initiative**

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONFERENCE

23 MAY, 9:15 am to 4:30 pm
at WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

Featuring a variety of interactive and experiential workshops including:

- Self Care
- Singing for wellbeing
- Mindfulness
- Resilience
- LGBTQ+ and mental health
- CBT café – Cake Before Therapy!
- End of life support
- Emotional literacy for children

Bookings open now:

www.reformjudaism.org.uk/conference

Email: careinitiative@rjuk.org



**STRAWBERRY
HOUSE
CLINIC**



BACK PAIN?

We offer effective treatment for back and neck problems, sciatica, sports injuries and much more.

Andreas Jochim DO MSc
Charlotte Parker M.Ost
Ernesto De La Cruz
Valdes B.Ost

12 Station Approach Hayes
Bromley BR2 7EH

020 8650 0509

www.strawberryhouseclinic.co.uk

BEAUTIFUL CARDS

A range of lovely nature-based images, plus bespoke designs for special occasions



A percentage of every sale will go to the Synagogue.

Details, prices and samples from

Judi Sheffrin,
judishef@aol.com

PET PHOTOGRAPHY

Unique images of your pets taken at home or on location

CALL SIMON 07721 649901

www.takenbysimon.co.uk



TAKEN BY SIMON.CO.UK

PHOTOGRAPHY ON LOCATION

FAMILY PORTRAITS ALSO COMMISSIONED